United Nations A/55/1014

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 July 2001
English
Original: French

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 48
The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Letter dated 29 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement in support of the efforts of the Organization of American States in Haiti issued on 28 June 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a General Assembly document, under agenda item 48.

(*Signed*) Pierre **Schori**
Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

01-45256 (E) 130701 130701

Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement in support of the efforts of the Organization of American States in Haiti issued on 28 June 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes with hope the efforts by the Organization of American States (OAS) and CARICOM to find a solution to the political crisis in Haiti, in particular the serious problems created by last year's elections. The European Union likewise welcomes with satisfaction the signs of openness to dialogue which emerged between the parties during the last visit of the Secretary-General of OAS to Haiti.

Recalling the backing which it has always given to OAS action in Haiti, the European Union hails the avenue opened up by the thirty-first ordinary session of the OAS General Assembly held at San José on 5 June 2001 ("Support for democracy in Haiti"), targeting the introduction of a gradual process aimed at the search for a political agreement between all political parties in Haiti without exception and started by Haitian civil society. However, it emphasizes that many questions remain to be answered: security of elections, screening of votes, funding of electoral campaigns, etc.

Mindful of the misery and distress facing the people of Haiti, the European Union urges the Government of Haiti, political parties, civil society and other pertinent segments of Haitian society to come together and to cooperate in a spirit of compromise and political normalization in exploring the avenue thus opened up, the first stage along which is the setting up of a credible, independent and neutral Provisional Electoral Council by 1 July 2001. The Provisional Electoral Council should determine as soon as possible the date of the new legislative elections. The European Union is convinced that the establishment of such a body would be likely to boost the electoral process necessary if the political crisis is to be resolved and democracy reinforced in Haiti.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.